

REMARKS

This Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination and addresses the issues remaining from the outstanding final Office Action.

Counsel wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the recent interview with Primary Examiner Chang. The substance of the interview is incorporated in these Remarks.

In accordance with the agreement reached at the interview, each of independent Claims 1, 17, and 18 has been amended to distinguish the invention more clearly from Giles et al. (U.S. 5,015,875), which is the basis for the outstanding rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). More specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the storage circuit outputs the third signal directly to its first output, and the output signal of the second logic gate through the second output. See, for example, the embodiment of Fig. 1. Claim 17 has been amended to recite that the second logic gate is coupled to the output of the master latch and that the output signal of the master latch is received by the second logic gate without passing through the slave latch. See, for example, the embodiment of Fig. 4. Finally, Claim 18 has been

amended more particularly to recite that the second control signal, to which the second logic gate is responsive, is supplied independently of the first control signal which controls the output signal selection of the first logic gate. See, for example, the embodiment shown in Fig. 6 (the first and second control signals corresponding to the scan-enable signal and the logic output release signal, respectively).

It is apparent that Giles et al '875 fails to teach or suggest a storage circuit including the aforementioned features, as set forth in amended Claims 1, 17 and 18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection under § 102(b) be withdrawn and that this application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:lat:sjk

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000

By:



Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

February 23, 2004